

EPP Buyer Update

Volume 7, July 2004

Tackling Climate Protection with “No Regrets”



This spring Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney announced a comprehensive plan for climate protection that endeavors to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and improve energy efficiency throughout the Commonwealth.

In line with the regional climate change policy signed by the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in 2001, the

Massachusetts' plan calls for a reduction in GHG emissions to the 1990 levels by the year 2010 and by another 10% by 2020. It also outlines a set of actions that will lessen the state's overall energy demand, reduce pollution, protect natural resources, and help the economy by fostering job growth through the development of sustainable energy resources and innovative technologies.

Stepping outside the ongoing debate of recent years regarding the causes of climate change, the Romney Administration has taken the position that the actions presented in the Massachusetts Climate Protection Plan (MCP) not only work toward alleviating climate impact, but they promote smart business practices that will help the economy and preserve the overall quality of life in the Commonwealth. *“Although many of the policies will not be easy to implement,” Romney states, “the benefits will be long-lasting and enormous... These are actions we must take now, if we are to have ‘no regrets’ when we transfer our temporary stewardship of this earth to the next generation.”*

The MCP focuses on a range of strategies, including proposed laws, incentive programs, regulatory changes, emissions tracking and reporting and numerous voluntary measures intended to ease the transition to cleaner and less costly energy sources. Many of these strategies encourage municipalities, state agencies, businesses, private citizens and others to adopt a common sense and cost-effective approach to reducing harmful GHG emissions and achieving the goals of the MCP. Highlights of these initiatives include,

- Partnering businesses, communities, and institutions with state government to set reasonable but aggressive energy savings and emissions reduction targets,
- developing an inventory of GHG emissions for state facilities and fleets as well as a comprehensive system for reporting this data,
- employing sustainable design and construction practices for projects involving state/local buildings and schools,
- reaffirming the state's commitment to the promotion of renewable energy and working to encourage wind and solar power generation programs and projects,
- leading by example to “green” the operation of state facilities and reduce energy use 25% by 2012,
- reducing the amount of solid waste generated by state and local agencies,
- stimulating the market for energy efficient environmentally preferable products, and
- supporting California's forthcoming limits on vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and providing incentives to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles (e.g. tax break to the owners of hybrid cars).

The plan is a result of a long process of many months of work involving numerous organizations and hundreds of interested citizens. You can download your copy of the plan at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd/docs/MAClimateProtectionPlan.pdf>. The Plan and strategies for implementing it will be discussed at the upcoming 10th Annual EPP Vendor Fair at Worcester's Centrum Centre on October 26, 2004.

Award Time!



Does your city, town or agency environmental program deserve recognition? Nominate your team for the Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Awards to be presented at the EPP Vendor Fair! Nomination information on page 4.

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New things to happen at the event!
Attendee registration available.
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How to buy an efficient dishwasher.
- **Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Awards:** Application Form on page 4.

Vendor Fair 2004:

We Keep Trying New Things!

The preparations for the 10th Annual EPP Vendor Fair – to take place at Worcester’s Centrum Centre in Worcester, MA on October 26 – are going full speed. We are signing up new exhibitors, lining up speakers and working to place the event on as many calendars of events as we can. **Is the Vendor Fair on your calendar yet?**

To give you a taste of what will be happening at the Vendor Fair on October 26, here are a few highlights:

Message from the Future Generation. The luncheon session at the anniversary Vendor Fair will not have the usual keynote speaker. Instead, you will hear a message from Massachusetts’ future generation. Who will deliver the message and how it will be delivered... you will have to see for yourselves! We guarantee it will bring on the smiles.

Theme Aisles. This year, to make it easier for you to find the things you are looking for, two to three aisles of the exhibit hall will turn into streets with very telling names. You will be able to visit:

- *Office Avenue* for office equipment and supplies,
- *Facilities Row* for products for facilities, and
- *Innovation Alley* for the products that – in our opinion - represent the future of environmental purchasing.

“Try Before You Buy” Pilots. We tried this last year, and it was so exciting we decided to do it again! Select vendors in the exhibit hall will be offering samples of their product or service for FREE or at a dramatically reduced cost to interested agencies. The testimony provided by the recipients will be used to educate other agencies, cities and towns. Information on the available pilots will be published before the event. In order to enter, you will have to visit the vendor’s booth and register to participate in the pilot. The winners will be selected by the exhibitors and notified after the show!

Year after year, the Vendor Fair keeps reinventing itself with new vendors, new workshops, new activities and new information. Every year, we work to provide a snapshot of the most current developments in environmental purchasing and sustainability. We cordially invite you to participate in the upcoming Vendor Fair – come learn the latest in the world of EPPs and – celebrate our anniversary! Attendee registration for the event is available at www.mass.gov/epp/VFPAGES/attendee-registration.html

Climate Change FAQs

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The following represent a synopsis of some of the questions and answers posed in the Mass Climate Protection Plan (MCPPI).

What is Climate Change?

A pattern of unstable weather believed to result from concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxides (NO_x), and other heat-trapping gases that form a blanket of pollution in the atmosphere.

Is Climate Change Real?

Concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere are the greatest in the last 140,000 years. As a result, the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) comprised of an estimated 2000 climate scientists, predicts an average temperature increase of 5-9° F by 2100. To put this number into perspective, the MCPPI states, only about 9° separates the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century from the world at the end of the last Ice Age, more than 10,000 years ago.

What are the Potential Impacts to Mass?

- An increase in global temperature could double the rate of sea-level rise causing loss of valuable beaches
- Coastal and marine ecosystems would be altered by changing currents and a warmer, saltier ocean, thus affecting the growth rate of local fish and shellfish as well as the commercial fishing industry
- Increased temperatures cause drier conditions and droughts, equating to further stress on water resources
- More frequent weather extremes can impact tourism, agriculture and the overall quality of life in the state
- Warmer weather can promote multiple heat-related health risks, disease spread and diminished air quality

What can Mass Citizens Do?

Refer to the “actions” established in the MCPPI at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd/docs/MAClimateProtectionPlan.pdf>

Subscription Information

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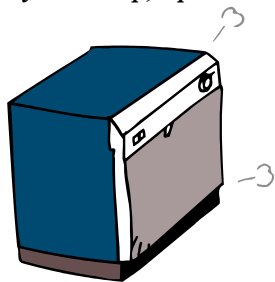
Focus on Appliances

While buying energy efficient appliances is important for consumers (after appliances account for up to half of residential energy use), it is hard to find a state or municipal facility without an appliance. Consuming significant amounts of energy, appliances also present significant opportunities to save through buying more energy efficient models and operating them thoughtfully.

In the next newsletters we will feature information on buying three types of appliances ranking among the top energy users – dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators – to help you save. In this issue, we will be focusing on dishwashers, ranked third for consuming the most energy in a household.

How to Buy a Dishwasher

By Anita Yip, Operational Services Division



Whether it is cutting coupons, haggling with salesmen, or hopping from store to store to compare prices, many people find it thrilling to hunt down the best bargain. However, when it comes to buying a dishwasher, the best bargain may not be the one on a price tag.

One should think long term when it comes to dishwashers, for dishwashers have two built-in costs: the cost of buying it and the cost of operating it. The operating cost varies among dishwashers depending on their water and energy use per cycle. Because most of the energy used by a dishwasher goes towards heating the water, the energy use of the appliance is invariably linked to its water use. Thus, water conservation helps save energy and money.

There are some specific technologies that make today's dishwashers about 50% more efficient than those manufactured 25 years ago:

- **Built-in heaters** can boost water temperature if it's not hot enough so that one can still have hot water while the water heater turned down.
- **Quality filtering systems** ensure that food particles will not recirculate.
- **Food disposers** in some dishwashers grind up food residue and dispose of it through the drain.
- **Air-dry option** works just as well as heat-dry and saves energy.
- **Adjustable racks and fold-down tines** make room for the extra-large and odd-shaped plates and allow for proper water circulation.
- **Dirt sensors** adjust the temperature, water use and cycle length to the amount of dirt on the plates.

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Planning Your Purchase

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Think long-term. Look at the average life of a major appliance:

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|------------------|----------|
| • Dishwasher | 12 years |
| • Clothes washer | 13 years |
| • Refrigerator | 17 years |

Assess your needs. Consider the possible/planned changes in your needs in appliance usage (volume of food to refrigerate, laundry to do) to determine the size of the appliance. Think about the items that may not fit into your current appliance (large dishes, specific frequently purchased foods) to decide on a specific appliance design.

Consider the purchase AND the operating cost. Over the years of operating the appliance, your energy cost is likely to add up.

Remember about the space requirements. Make sure that you have enough room not only to fit the appliance, but also to open its door or lid fully. Leave enough clearance for ventilation.

But how can you tell which dishwasher is more energy efficient? There are three points of referral from which to start:

- Start with the yellow label known as the **Energy Guide**. By federal law, every dishwasher will have one. The Energy Guide will display the annual operating cost and energy consumption of the particular appliance, and also chart where the appliance stands in comparison with similar ones with regard to energy consumption.
- We recommend that you also look for the **Energy Star®** label, which identifies dishwashers that exceed the federal minimum energy requirement by at least 25%.
- And if you are shooting for the best dishwasher on the market, refer to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy for a list of **Top-Rated Energy Efficient Dishwashers** at <http://www.aceee.org/consumerguide/topdish.htm>

Energy Conservation Tips

- Do not pre-rinse dishes, your dishwasher is designed to be able to deal with almost any food residues.
- Set hot water thermostat to 120°F.
- Operate the dishwasher only with a full load.
- Use shorter wash cycles for everything but the dirtiest dishes.
- Use the "no-heat" option for drying dishes



2004 Agency & Municipal

Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Awards

Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Operational Services Division,
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and
Department of Environmental Protection

What is the Massachusetts Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Award?

The Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Awards is a public service awards program sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Operational Services Division in cooperation with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and Department of Environmental Protection, for the purpose of recognizing outstanding efforts in purchasing EPPs and other sustainable practices among Commonwealth public sector entities.

What is Different about This Year's Award?

Over the past few years, the scope of environmental activities implemented by state agencies, cities and towns has extended beyond purchases of recycled content and other EPPs to include such new initiatives as green house gas emission reduction, waste minimization and other sustainable practices. To better address these new developments, the annual awards program will broaden its scope to include a variety of other sustainable practices. While it is desirable that every application continue to document recycled and EPP purchasing, we encourage the applicants to address other sustainable practices as well.

Who Should Apply?

Eligible entries include state agencies and authorities, state facilities, colleges and universities, municipalities and their departments, schools/school districts and public purchasing cooperatives.

What are Sustainable Practices?

Entities considering applying should have made a significant effort in implementing initiatives in one or more of the following areas:

- Purchasing of recycled and environmentally preferable products (EPPs),
- Climate protection and energy efficiency,
- Waste reduction and recycling,
- Reduction or elimination of use of mercury and persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs),
- Sustainable design and construction,
- Water conservation,
- Natural resource protection.

Why Should You Apply?

Receiving a Commonwealth Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Award gets you public recognition for your achievements in the recycled and EPP purchasing and sustainability arenas. Such recognition can help to promote future environmental efforts and help foster a positive image of your organization.

When Will the Award Be Presented?

The Massachusetts Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Awards will be presented at the 10th Annual EPP Vendor Fair and Conference, to be held this year on October 26, 2004, at Worcester's Centrum Centre, in Worcester, MA.

Application/Nomination Instructions

To apply, complete and return the attached form, with particular attention to the description of program summary. Individuals may enter their own agency/municipality/school for an award, and/or nominate another entity.

All entries must be submitted no later than September 24, 2003 to the address indicated.

**AWARD CRITERIA**

Some or all of the following criteria will be considered in evaluating nominations.

- ♦ **Sustainable Practices.** Demonstrated efforts in one or more of the following areas:
 - Climate protection and energy efficiency,
 - Waste reduction and recycling,
 - Reduction or elimination of use of mercury and persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs),
 - Sustainable design and construction,
 - Purchasing of recycled and environmentally preferable products (EPPs) and
 - water conservation.
- ♦ **Comprehensiveness, diversity and scale of effort.** Number of sustainable practice areas addressed, number of departments participating in the effort, etc.
- ♦ **Environmental benefits and cost savings achieved by the project or program** (e. g. greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, gallons of water conserved, cubic yards of landfill space saved, kilowatt-hours of energy saved, dollar savings that resulted from the project, etc.)
- ♦ **Policy development.** Adoption of a formal Sustainability Plan, Buy Recycled and/or EPP Purchasing Policy, Climate Protection Plan, Water Conservation Ordinance and/or other documents institutionalizing the effort. (Please attach a copy of the document).
- ♦ **Program growth.** Growth in the implementation of sustainable practices over the past year (e. g. growth in recycled and EPP purchases (number of products, dollars spent, overall percentage, etc.), increase in recycling rate, progress toward GHG emissions reduction goal, etc.)
- ♦ **Innovation/creativity of effort.** New sustainability initiatives implemented (e. g. documented experience in pilot testing new recycled and EPPs, use of new products or technologies for reducing environmental impacts).
- ♦ **Tracking.** A comprehensive method of tracking the implementation of sustainable practices and their benefits (e. g. energy and water savings, recycled / EPP purchases).
- ♦ **Linking environmental purchasing and sustainability.** Incorporating sustainability considerations into purchasing decisions through considering use and disposal costs at the time of purchase, purchases that address more than one sustainable practice areas documented above.

NOMINATION FORM

You may nominate your organization, or recommend another organization.

Agency/Municipality/Other being nominated: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Email: _____

Name of Person and Organization Responsible for the nomination (if different from above): _____

PROGRAM MERIT: Please attach a separate sheets describing the applicant's or nominee's (if different from applicant) efforts in the areas of environmental purchasing and sustainability satisfying the award criteria above. Please include such specific information as the specific tracking data, savings information, specific project locations, name(s) of person(s) to contact for more information, and any other pertinent details.

All entries must be submitted no later than September 24, 2004, to Marcia Deegler, OSD, One Ashburton Place, Rm 1017, Boston, MA; email marcia.deegler@osd.state.ma.us or fax 617-727-4527. For questions or more information, please call (617) 720-3356.